



HTRT

HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESPONSE TEAM

Technical Assistance: A Law Enforcement Model

- In February 2009, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart launched the Human Trafficking Response Team
- Objectives of the HTRT:
 1. Respond to the *exploitation* of women and girls in the sex trade
 2. Reduce the *demand* for paid sex in Cook County

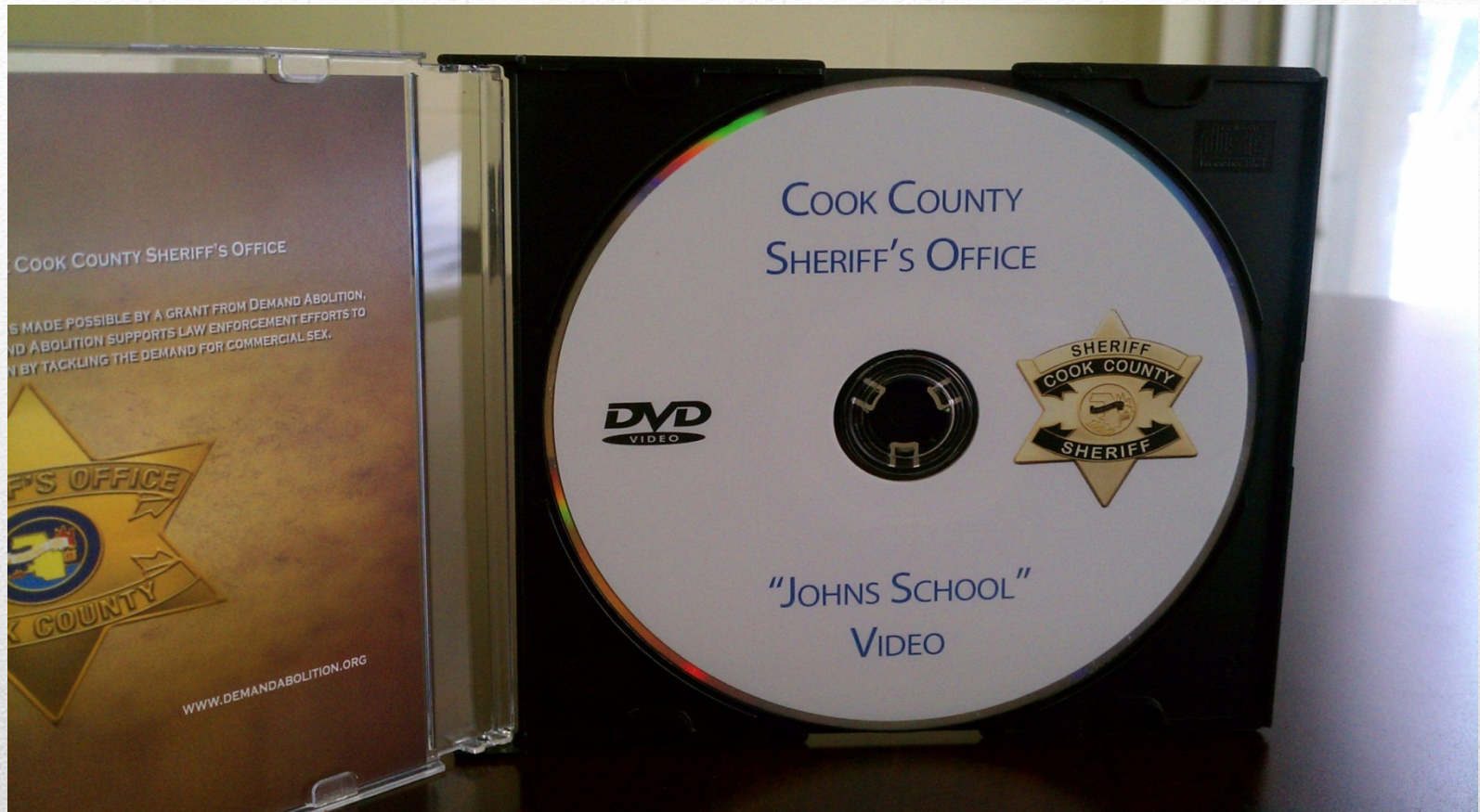
History

- Importance of targeting the demand side of prostitution (customers, johns or people who buy sex)
- Effect of demand on the women and girls in the sex trade

Demand

- The HTRT includes 3 survivors of prostitution, who are also members of the Cook County Sheriff's Office.
- Their efforts are augmented by:
 - Sheriff's Police (CCSPD)
 - Child Protection Response Unit (CPRU)

The HTRT Unit



Addressing Demand: Holding Customers Accountable in the Sex Trade

- Interviewed women highlighted throughout the report in the gray-blue boxes, illustrate the many ways that girls and women are trafficked in Cook County:
- *Pimp-controlled girls and women*
- *Women trafficked from other countries*
- *Older women on the street*
- *Girls in gangs*
- *Girls and women who consider themselves independent*

**Addressing Demand:
Offering Services to Girls and Women**



Addressing Demand: Deter Customers

- Sex trafficking compel women and girls through force, fraud or coercion to participate in the sex trade
- Sheriff Tom Dart's intervention model is intended to combat sex trafficking and sexual exploitation in Cook County

Addressing Demand: Deter Customers

- Most women and girls do not want to sell sex – therefore, force and coercion are necessary
- Even those who are not trafficked are usually selling sex only because of distress (such as addiction) and want out of “the life”

Addressing Demand: Deter Customers

- Supply follows demand
- Sex trafficking cannot be eliminated unless demand for paid sex is reduced

Addressing Demand: Deter Customers

- Targeting sellers of sex does not reduce demand
- With continuing demand, new sellers will inevitably fill the vacuum
- Customers must receive the message that they will suffer severe penalties for buying sex in Cook County

Addressing Demand: Deter Customers

- In December 2008, Sheriff Dart championed a new Cook County ordinance pertaining to the local sex trade
- Individuals found soliciting paid sex on the street, via Internet, electronic communication device or print media will be held liable for a public morals nuisance violation and fined not less than \$500 and not more than \$1,000

The New Ordinance

- In addition to the fines, a violator may be required to perform a minimum of 100 hours of community service in a program under the direction of the Sheriff
- Any motor vehicle used in this violation is also subject to seizure and impoundment, resulting in additional administrative charges and fees

The New Ordinance

- Fines collected are deposited in the Women's Justice Services Fund and used to fund rehabilitation services
- The services include mental health and substance abuse treatment and are provided to victims in recovery by the Sheriff's Women's Justice Programs (SWJP)

The New Ordinance

- Customers can pay their fines at the time of apprehension or can request more time
- Only on a second arrest will state criminal prostitution charges be brought
- Only one customer arrested has been picked up again by CCSO Sheriff's Police

The New Ordinance

- The Illinois Safe Child Act ended the practice of prosecuting minors who have been prostituted
- The law ensures that exploited children receive a safe home and counseling
- Provides police and prosecutors new tools to go after pimps, traffickers and people who buy sex

Illinois Safe Children's Act

- The Cook County Sheriff's Office Child Protection Response Unit is responsible for recovering runaway minors as well as victims of neglect of kidnapping
- Execute warrants in an effort to locate, recover and place children back in safe environments
- As of February 2015 over 400 minors have been recovered

Child Protection Response Unit

- Day of Johns campaign sends a stronger message to customers across the country
- CCSO coordinates activities with local state and federal enforcement agencies to conduct simultaneous sting operations

National Day of Johns Arrests

- Since 2011, coalition has launched nine joint sting operations in more than 30 states.
- 70 jurisdictions participating, including the FBI, ICE and Homeland Security.
- **More than 2,900 Johns arrested to date**
- Only 14% of the arrests involved street prostitution, with the remainder reverse stings in indoor prostitution venues

National Day of Johns Arrests

- The Sheriff's model recognizes that to end the exploitation of women and girls in sex trafficking it is necessary to identify and charge pimps and traffickers
- Pimping and trafficking has become more popular, because up until recently it was an activity less dangerous than selling drugs.

Addressing Demand: Prosecut Pimps and Traffickers

- Sheriff's Office interventions with women and girls take place following arrests to determine if they are victims of sex trafficking and to offer them services and alternatives to returning to the sex trade

Addressing Demand: Intervene with Girls and Women

The approach is based on an awareness that:

- (1) The majority of women and girls were recruited into prostitution as young teens
- (2) Nearly all have suffered childhood sexual abuse
- (3) Many were recruited by family members, older men acting as boyfriends or others who they trusted

Addressing Demand: Intervene with Girls and Women

- Sheriff's Police ask the women and girls if they would like to talk with a survivor of prostitution about exiting the sex trade

Addressing Demand: Intervene with Girls and Women

- Initially, survivors talked with the women and girls at the time of apprehension, but they soon realized that this stressful time was not appropriate for building trust
- Survivors now meet the women and girls at the police station, with 24/7 availability

Addressing Demand: Intervene with Girls and Women

- Although the women may be bonding out, they are held until the survivor interviews them and offers services
- If the women and girls are on substances at lock-up, the survivors will talk with them later at the jail or at the courthouse
- Conversations can last up to 2 hours. Survivors tell their stories and react to the women's accounts in a non-judgmental manner.

Addressing Demand: Intervene with Girls and Women

- Even if the women do not want services and help, they are given information and the telephone number of the survivor if they want to make contact later

Addressing Demand: Intervene with Girls and Women

Questions and Answers

- ccso.htrt@cookcountyil.gov

Special Operations/Vice Unit

- (312) 550-2740 Commander William Leen

Child Protection Response Unit

- (312) 433-4576 Detective Dion Trotter

Survivors

- (312) 254-6226 (Lisa Cunningham)
- (312) 718-7718 (Marian Hatcher) – HT Coordinator
- (312) 718-4449 (Brenda Myers-Powell)

HTRT: Contact Information

